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ORIGINAL



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3701

August 9, 1999

Mr. William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
425 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RE: MM Docket No. 99-25

Dear Mr. Kennard:

I am writing on behalf of Mr. James Nelson, President of KBPS Public Radio Foundation, a public radio station that broadcasts the only full time classical music and fine arts programming in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington. Mr. Nelson has contacted me to express his concern with the FCC's proposed rule MM Docket No. 99-25.

Enclosed is the letter I received from Mr. Nelson, in which he expresses his concern that this rule will likely affect the ability of many listeners in our metropolitan area to receive quality broadcasts at the low end of the broadcast spectrum. He is worried that the effort to allow Low Power FM radio stations to operate in the non-commercial end of the FM spectrum will threaten the reception of signals from existing stations.

I would appreciate your looking into this matter and taking whatever steps are needed to insure that existing radio stations are not disadvantaged by moves to expand licenses for non-commercial FM radio stations. I encourage you to look at the possibility of conducting studies to determine what, if any, the impact would be on existing broadcasters.

I encourage the Commission to give this matter all due consideration and would like to be kept informed of the progress of your action on my constituent's behalf. Please notify James Modie in my Portland district office of any decisions or intended actions that will affect the disposition of this request.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention and cooperation.

With warm regards,

David Wu
Member of Congress

DW:jm
Enclosure

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PUBLIC RADIO FOUNDATION

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Station General Manager

Suzanne R. White

The Honorable David Wu
Member of the House
510 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wu:

Thank you for your letters of May 25 and June 22 to my predecessor, Bonnie Schlieman, regarding FCC policy on awarding licenses to non-commercial FM radio stations. We very much appreciated your support on this issue.

The FCC is proposing another rule, MM Docket No. 99-25, which threatens non-commercial radio stations across the country. We hope you will write FCC Commissioner William E. Kennard supporting our positions as outlined in the attached letter.

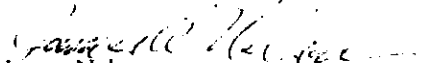
Briefly, the Commission proposes to allow hundreds of Low Power FM radio stations to operate in the non-commercial end of the FM spectrum. Some of these stations would be relatively unregulated as to content.

The Commission has not performed studies on what effect LPFM will have on existing service, but our analysis suggests that it is likely to cause havoc with the reception of our signal and with that of many other public radio stations. In addition, competing standards for digital radio transmission are now being tested. We believe it would be imprudent to introduce a new element into the spectrum before the results of those tests and their implications are known.

Public broadcasting has received some bad publicity recently, so I feel obliged to mention that KBPS has never sold its membership lists to any group, political or otherwise. On occasion, however, it exchanges lists with local arts organizations such as the Oregon Symphony and Portland Opera, a practice which we feel enhances our listeners' access to the arts. It would be unfortunate if the unwise policies of some public broadcasting stations undermined support for the entire non-commercial spectrum, a valuable resource.

Again, we are grateful for your responsiveness to the concerns of our stations and hope you will be in touch with Chairman Kennard.

Sincerely,


James Nelson
President, KBPS Public Radio Foundation

Attachment

A community foundation supporting KBPS 89.9 fm and 1450 am

515 NE Fifteenth Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232 2719 PHONE 503.916.5828 FAX 503.916.2642